

EURIPIDES JUST AS
POPULAR AS B. SHAW

Gilbert Murray Tells of English
Revival of the
Classics.

WORKINGMEN MOST EAGER

Oxford Translator Will Talk to Stu-
dents at Amherst and
Columbia.

Gilbert Murray, the Australian who is
prof. Jowett's successor as regius pro-
fessor of Greek at Oxford and who
through his productions of his own and
other English translations of Greek plays
and his connection with the Workers
Educational Association movement has
probably done more than any other man
to popularize the study of Greek in his
own country, said yesterday in illustra-
tion of the actual popularity that the
Greek drama has achieved in England
that when his translation of "Iphigenia"
of Euripides was being presented at a
theatre in London Euripides ran neck
and neck with one of Bernard Shaw's
productions of his "Arcturion" nights,
and that "I found that I had rather the
letter of Mr. Shaw in the pit."

Prof. Murray is here to carry on the
work begun by him in England. He and
his wife, Lady Murray, are at present
the guests of George A. Plimpton of 61 Park
avenue, chairman of the board of trustees
of Amherst College. Prof. Murray besides
giving several lectures will spend five
weeks at Amherst. He said yesterday
that his visit was inspired by a letter
written by Mr. Plimpton and an address
of the class of 1885 at Amherst which made
him feel "that Amherst is making a bold
effort in the cause I have most at heart."

He had come, he said, to learn what
Amherst is doing to advance the cause
of the Greeks and "to help as best I can."

Prof. Murray will give three public
lectures at the Lowell Institute, where
his subject will be the Greek drama, and
three at Columbia on the Greek religion.
He says that the greater part of the time
he spends here will be given to classroom
work at Amherst. He believes that in
that way he will spend his time more
usefully than in lecturing.

While Prof. Murray believes that
interest in Greek is reviving in England
he is in favor of making it an optional
course of study at Oxford and Cambridge.
He doesn't think much of the work done
by students who are driven to the study
against their own desire. He said that
while it was true that Greek is "dying
out in most places," the general interest
in Greek thought and Greek literature
has increased greatly in England in the
last fifteen years. As proof of this he
pointed to the sale of the translation of
"Hecuba" and said that all over
England were to be found classes of
workmen making a study of Plato.

"Not merely reading the 'Republic,'"
he added, "but attending lectures and
writing essays on it, putting real work
and interest into it." He continued:
"To give another illustration: Fifteen
years ago hardly ever heard of the
giving of a Greek play, except at some
purely collegiate entertainment. At the
present moment there are two Greek
plays running in a regular commercial
way—the 'Oedipus' of Sophocles, which
is on tour after a great success at Covent
Garden, and the 'Iphigenia' of Euripides
at the Kingsway Theatre, London. Our
count performance by universities or
private theatrical societies, I know of
eight different productions in the last few
months."

That this new movement for the study
of Greek comes from the masses rather
than the classes is proved, Prof. Murray
says, by the fact that while the English
public schools are tending toward the
abolition of compulsory Greek, there is
in the board schools, which are similar
to the public schools in this country,
an increasing demand for the chance
to study Greek. He said that he had been
asked by the secretary of the Workers
Educational Association to point out in
his lectures the need of having in each
of the schools where the workers' work-
ingmen could if they wished acquire a knowl-
edge of Greek.

A part of the demand, Prof. Murray
thinks is due to the socialist movement,
which he describes as being "a sober,
thoughtful and conservative" movement
in England. Students of socialism want
to be able to read Plato's "Republic" at
first hand and England, says Prof. Murray,
is now experiencing what is called there
a "renaissance of intellectual thought
among the middle and working
classes." This movement he admitted
was founded at least in part on a feeling
among the working class that if they did
not attain a knowledge of the only
"something" precious was being withheld
from them.

Prof. Murray says that there are to-
day a greater number of people who own
transcripts of Greek plays than there ever
were. He finds two main reasons for
"keeping our knowledge of Greek thought
and literature always alive." One is
"that the roots of all that is progressive
in modern civilization lie in ancient
Greece; that our religion comes from the
Greek Testament and our ideas of
freedom and democracy, of the duty of
the individual to the State, our concep-
tions in art and almost the whole of our
philosophy are based on some dozen great
books written in Greece in the fifth and
fourth centuries before Christ." The
other is that "we do not want the most
beautiful things in the world to die, al-
though if nobody knows Greek they will
die, since it happens that a great deal
of the most beautiful and noble poetry
and philosophy and history ever written
by men was written by Greeks."

Prof. Murray said that it was at the
suggestion of William Archer, and with
the assistance of Mr. Archer and Gran-
ville Barker that he produced his first
popular Greek play. Getting the play
ready for stage production had taught
him, he said, the meaning of many pas-
sages that had before seemed to have
no adequate reason for being. To ex-
press the growing interest of the public
in the Greek drama in English he men-
tioned the receipts for a play that had
run four days. They were £20, £20,
£100 and £220. He said that visiting
the theatre on one of the last days he saw
a long line of people waiting to buy tickets
and thought at first that he had come
to the wrong theatre. A large propor-
tion of the audience, he said, was made
up of people who knew no Greek, but who
were there to see the play.

It is Prof. Murray's belief that what
is needed nowadays is a greater effort to
bring education—less effort to give
everybody the same kind of training.
He said that one of the worst things
about the modern movement against
the classics is that it tends to do away
with what he considers the most
valuable part—the poetry and philosophy
of the Greeks—and to retain only the
facts concerning the achievements of
the ancients.

Prof. Murray's translations of Greek
plays include "Hippolytus," "Hecuba,"
"The Trojan Women," "Electra," "Medea,"
and "Iphigenia in Tauris" of Euripides
and Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex."

JOSEPH AGOSTINI DEAD.

Veteran New York Merchant, Long Ill,
Lived to Be 73.

Joseph Agostini, 73 years old, died yester-
day at his home at 17 West Forty-seventh
street after a long illness. Mr. Agostini
was born on the island of Corsica in 1839.
His father, Joseph Agostini, was engaged
in a foreign commission business. Mr.
Agostini was educated in this country and
went into the same business when little
more than a boy. He became a member of
the Chamber of Commerce and of the
Produce Exchange. He was active in sev-
eral clubs, being a governor of the Union
Club, the Metropolitan Club and the Mid-
dletown Club and of the Automobile Club
of America. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Louis
Agostini, and three children: Mrs. Louis
Agostini, Mrs. Edith A. Beales and Mrs.
Gertrude Davis, wife of Dr. Fellows Davis Jr.,
of this city. The funeral will be held to-
morrow morning at 10:30 o'clock at
St. Thomas's church, 103 West 47th street,
conducted by the Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Sullivan,
rector of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church.

TAUGHT MANY GIRLS TO SING.

Julian Ropke, Famous Paris Voice
Trainer, Passes Away at 87.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

Paris, March 30.—Julian Ropke, gen-
erally known as Julian, professor of singing,
died today at the age of 87. He was a
Frenchman and was pupil of his during
the last fifty years and he was beloved by
all.

He always fostered his pupils, advanced
money to would-be prima donnas and helped
poor and deserving scholars.

JAMES D. FISH DEAD AT 93.

Partner of Gen. Grant in Grant & Ward
Lived in Retirement for Many Years.

James Dean Fish, who was president of
the Marine Bank, the failure of which in
1884 swept away the savings of Ulysses S.
Grant, died last Sunday at the home of his
daughter, at 165 St. Felix street, Brooklyn.
The notice of his death was published in the
obituary columns of but one New York
paper and that included no address. Mr.
Fish was 93 years old. Two months ago
he fell and broke his right leg. He did not
recover from the injury.

Gen. Grant went into partnership with
Mr. Fish under the firm name of Grant &
Ward. The general bought a seventh in-
terest in the business for \$50,000 and later
Mr. Grant and Jesse Grant purchased a
similar interest in the business. The firm
was a success and for awhile the Marine
Bank, in which Grant & Ward had \$400,000
deposited, was regarded as a powerful
institution.

Mr. Fish's attraction to Sally Reber,
who was in the "Marine Bank" and was a
popular favorite, attracted considerable notice.
Just before the failure of the Marine Bank
closed on May 6, 1884, Mr. Fish was privately
married to Miss Reber, who was his third
wife.

For his share in bringing about the failure
of the bank Mr. Fish was sent to the State
prison in Auburn in May, 1885. The day
he was sentenced his new wife bore him a
child, and five weeks later she died. He
served three years, ten months and fifteen
days and then President Cleveland com-
muted the sentence.

After his release Mr. Fish lived with his
daughters in the Brooklyn home and few
of his neighbors knew of his history. He
was buried last Monday at Myrtle, Conn.,
his birthplace.

JOHN MITCHELL DIES IN FLORIDA

For Nearly Twelve Years a Member of
the Jersey City Police Board.

John Mitchell, the Republican minority
member of the Jersey City Board of Police
Commissioners, died yesterday in his fifty-
fifth year at Daytona Beach, Fla., where
he went three weeks ago in the hope of
regaining his health. Death was due to
Bright's disease, from which he had been
suffering for nearly a year. Mr. Mitchell
was a lifelong resident of Jersey City.

In his early manhood he went into busi-
ness as a painter and decorator. He was
elected a member of the Board of Aldermen
in the early '90s and was appointed a Police
Commissioner in 1901. He was re-elected
in 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908,
1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916,
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